

REMARKS

Claims 16-45 are pending in the application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 16-44.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 45 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over WO 96/04937 to Trinh *et al.* ("Trinh"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, it alleges that the present invention would be obvious in light of Trinh. Applicants respectfully disagree. Trinh does not disclose or suggest each and every element of the invention. Specifically, Trinh does not disclose or suggest a process for preparing the composition of Claim 16 comprising the steps of premixing the perfume (B) with organic solvents to form a premix and adding said premix to a mixture of cyclodextrin and water to form a stable emulsion or dispersion.

Trinh discloses stable, preferably clear, aqueous odor-absorbing compositions, etc. comprising solubilized water-soluble uncomplexed cyclodextrin and, preferably, a water-soluble antimicrobial preservative for said aqueous cyclodextrin solution. *See, e.g.*, Trinh, page 1, lines 11-15. Further, Trinh discloses that about 5 parts of alpha-cyclodextrin and about 5 parts of methylated beta-cyclodextrin are added with mixing in a vessel containing about 980 parts of distilled water. Trinh also discloses that after zinc chloride and hydrochloric acid are dissolved into the solution, about 0.1 part of a perfume is added and mixed until the solution is clear. Then about 0.67 part of a nominally 1.5% aqueous solution of Kathon CG is added with mixing until the solution becomes water clear. *See, e.g.*, Trinh, page 38, lines 9-17.

The Office Action alleges that the present invention would have been obvious in light of Trinh because when solvents are added to the perfumes, they would have been present as a premix of alcohol and perfume that is subsequently added to the mixture of cyclodextrin and water. Applicants respectfully disagree. As stated in the Specification as filed, a clear premix consisting of hydrophilic perfume ingredients, cyclodextrin compatible surfactant, and solubility aid (for example, ethanol) is firstly made so that all hydrophilic perfume ingredients are pre-dissolved. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 13, lines 7-12. Further, cyclodextrin, water hold and optional ingredients are always added during the final mixing stage. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 13, lines 12-13. These components are dissolved in this manner for best

product stability and improved cyclodextrin compatibility. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 13, lines 8-12. Trinh discloses combining the water and cyclodextrin, then adding perfume, and finally adding Kathon CG. Trinh does not disclose or suggest forming a premix of perfume and organic solvents to add to a mixture of cyclodextrin and water. Because Trinh does not disclose or suggest the steps of premixing the perfume (B) with organic solvents to form a premix and adding said premix to a mixture of cyclodextrin and water to form a stable emulsion or dispersion, Trinh does not disclose or suggest each and every limitation of the invention.

Because Trinh does not disclose or suggest each and every limitation of the present invention, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

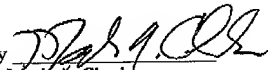
All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner disagree, Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants to arrange for a telephonic interview in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested. No fee is believed to be due for the amendments herein. Should any fee be required, please charge such fee to Procter & Gamble Deposit Account No. 16-2480.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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